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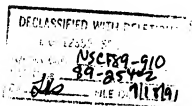
March 18, 1960

MEMORANDUM OF CONFERENCE WITH THE PRESIDENT
March 17, 1960 (following NSC)

Others present Secretary Herter
 General Goodpaster

Mr. Herter said it was the view of the State Department that Ambassador Bonsal should be sent back to Cuba. He believes that this is the last time Bonsal should return if the Cubans involve him in their charges and plots in the future. He showed the President a proposed message to our charge in Cuba, including the text of a proposed press release. The President said he agreed that we might as well get Bonsal back in Havana, to do whatever we can with a very unsatisfactory situation. Mr. Herter said that the South Americans are reacting very favorably to the restrained and correct actions being taken by the United States in this whole matter, and he thought Bonsal's return would help this.

Regarding his accompanying the President during his visit to the Soviet Union, Mr. Herter commented that the principal conversations are now planned for the 11th and 12th of June and for the morning of June 16th. He saw no need for his accompanying the President to Leningrad and Kiev, or on to Irkutsk. He had consulted Thompson about this, and thought this was Thompson's feeling. The President thought we would do well to be guided by Ambassador Thompson's sensing of the situation. Mr. Herter said he agreed with the President that it is best for the two of them not to be absent together for long periods of time from the United States, particularly for ceremonial-type activities. He commented that the purpose of this trip is not one of negotiations, and this lessens the need for senior State Department personnel. He added that he expects to have drafts of speeches and remarks the President is scheduled to make during the trip available to the President by the end of this month.



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Secretary Herter then went on to say that he had spent a very bad evening with Adenauer the night before. He had given a very restricted dinner for Adenauer, following which the Chancellor became very difficult and contentious in his discussion. Adenauer started with a long argument on what the Soviets are going to be able to do to the West, economically, premised on a report that had reached him that the Soviets will pass the United States in economic output by mid 1965. He had mentioned this the night before to Bruce, Dowling, Allen Dulles, Clay and McCloy, all of whom told him that his information was quite erroneous. In addition, Mr. Herter said that last evening Adenauer had asserted that the President had not mentioned Central Europe as an area to be covered by the Norstad Plan. The President commented that he had said that Central Europe plus perhaps Siberia and Alaska would be included. He commented that the interpreter at the luncheon, where he had discussed this, had in other instances failed to give a complete translation. He was very clear that he had mentioned it, however.

Mr. Herter said that the Chancellor had asked if the United States would support his idea for a quick referendum. Mr. Herter had replied that we would certainly support the principle of self-determination, which was a basic element in U. S. foreign policy. |

Mr. Herter said Von Brentano stayed after Adenauer left for half an hour to try to put things on a better plane. Mr. Herter said it is clear that Adenauer has become extremely suspicious, and ready to believe any rumor that the United States is doing something against the interest of himself or his party. The President commented there are clear signs of growing senility particularly in Adenauer's tendency to focus on a single point, with less of perspective on the whole range of considerations.



Mr. Herter next raised the request for Foreign Minister Lafer of Brazil to come in to see the President. He realized that it has been the practice not to have Foreign Ministers visit the President, at least on the record, but said that Kubitschek has made a public offer of good offices as between the United States and Cuba. The State Department thinks it is much too early to think about good offices. The Cubans and others might try to help the situation along through the OAS, however. This he gave as a reason for the President's seeing Lafer. The President said he would be happy to see Lafer, and the meeting could be on the record. He thought it would create no precedent in light of the fact he had seen him on his recent trip. The President thought that the State Department should take the position that the United States is very anxious to strengthen its ties with the OAS. Our problems with Cuba probably do not affect the United States so adversely as the other countries of this hemisphere, since investments in those countries will inevitably tend to dry up. This is not a question of a quarrel between the United States and Cuba which needs the mediation of other people. Mr. Herter thought that the forthcoming visit of President Lleras of Colombia will provide an excellent opportunity to make progress on this point, in that he was formerly chairman of the OAS. The question is now one of timing in the matter before the OAS.

Mr. Herter said that Ambassador Briggs is back from Greece for consultations. Greece is in trouble economically -- having trouble disposing of its export products. The Soviets are making an offer of economic aid to the Greeks which they find it hard to resist. He asked if the President would be agreeable to seeing Ambassador Briggs for five minutes so as to demonstrate his interest in the economic plight of the Greeks. The President said he would be agreeable to doing this. I suggested that he might have Mr. Dillon in at the same time so as to avoid creating a practice of Ambassadors seeking to see the President every time they are back in town. The President and the Secretary agreed to this. The President said he thought that Greece should develop ties to the Common Market or Free Trade area. Mr. Herter

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pointed out that the volume of trade with Greece is not large or important for these other countries. The President said the Britain has traditional ties to Greece and he thought they should take some responsibility. He said he would mention it in a letter to Macmillan that he was drafting.



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